

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application.

II. Drawings

In the Office Action dated March 26, 2004, the drawings have been indicated as being acceptable.

III. Rejection of The Claims

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,405,243 to Nielsen (the "Nielsen reference"). For the below stated reason, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the instant invention relates to an e-mail forwarding system in which a remote e-mail forwarding computer, separate and apart from a sender's and recipient's computer, is able to automatically associate forwarding e-mail addresses for e-mail that was undeliverable to a disfavored e-mail address. And just as important, the remote e-mail forwarding computer is able to forward the previous undeliverable e-mail to the associated e-mail forwarding address. With specific reference to claim 1, it is recited:

... sending the e-mail message from the remote computer to a computer associated with at least one forwarding address if there is determined at least one disfavored e-mail address associated with the intended e-mail address.

In rejecting claim 1 the examiner stated the Nielsen reference teaches this above recitation with references to Col. 4, line 57 to Col. 5, line 21 and Col. 5, line 58 to Col. 6, line 55 of the Nielsen reference.

It is submitted that the Nielsen reference does not actually teach the above-stated recitation of claim 1 but rather teaches sending an e-mail forwarding address back from a remote computer (i.e., ADDRESS-CHANGE SERVER 103) to the sender's computer (i.e., SENDER COMPUTER 101) whereby the sender's computer then inserts this forwarding e-mail address into a previous undeliverable e-mail message and the e-mail is then sent from the sender's